



“STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING”

Tim Jefferson

ALERT – Tucson Outreach Coordinator

International Rescue Committee

TOPICS

- Human Trafficking Review
- Challenges of Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking
- Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking
- What is ALERT?
- What Strategies for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking are being implemented in Arizona?

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- **Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery**
- **Victims exploited for commercial sex or labor purposes**
- **Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion**



After drug trafficking, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms trade as the second largest criminal industry in the world and is the fastest growing.

WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?



- Commercial sex act induced for force, fraud, or coercion or in which person performing the acts are under the age 18
- Victims can be found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, escort services

WHAT IS LABOR TRAFFICKING?

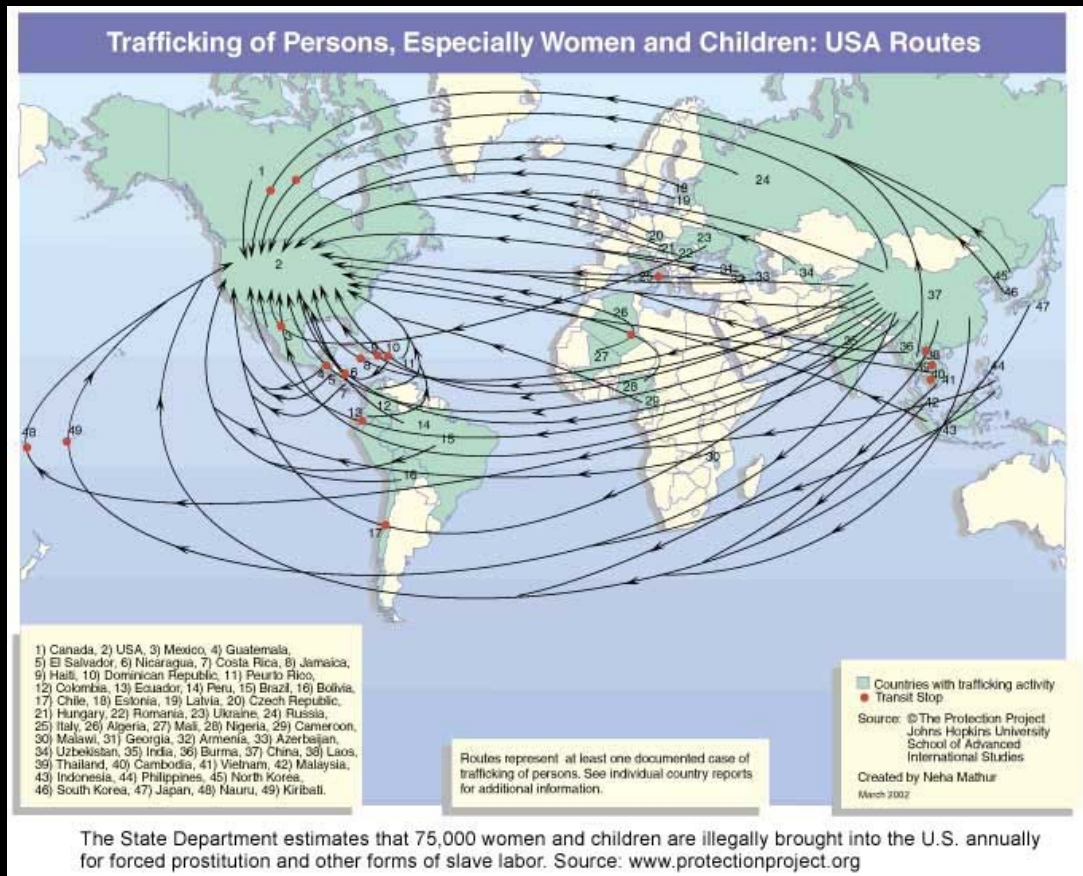
- Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services in **involuntary servitude, peonage, debondage, or slavery**
- Victims can be found in domestic situations as nannies or maids, sweatshop factories, janitorial jobs, construction sites, farm work, restaurants, panhandling

Crime of trafficking occurs with the exploitation of the victim. The physical movement of the victim is not a requisite. The TVPA protects both U.S. citizens and non-citizens.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

14,000 to 18,000 victims trafficked into US annually from all over the world including Africa, Asia, India, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Russia, Canada, etc.



CHALLENGES OF IDENTIFYING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- Many victims in the U.S. do not speak English and are unable to communicate with service providers, police, or others who might be able to help them. Also, victims may not be literate in their own language
- Often kept isolated and activities restricted to prevent them from seeking help
- Typically watched, escorted or guarded by traffickers or associates of traffickers
- Traffickers may “coach” victims to answer questions with cover story about being wife, student or tourist
- Victims comply and don’t seek help because of fear. Common fears include deportation, police corruption or brutality, threats against themselves or family
- Like victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, victims of trafficking are unlikely to “self-identify” themselves
- Especially in cases of debt bondage, many are unaware that what is being done to them is a crime and blame themselves for their situation
- Victims may develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism (also many times trafficker can be family member)
- Sometimes victims do not know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection

Needs of Victims of Trafficking




- **Immediate Assistance** (*housing, food, medical care, safety and security, language interpretation, and legal services*)
- **Mental Health Assistance** (*Counseling*)
- **Income Assistance** (*Cash, living assistance*)
- **Legal Status** (*T visa, immigration, certification*)

WHAT IS THE IRC?

- The IRC, International Rescue Committee, is the largest and oldest refugee aid organization, created at the suggestion of Albert Einstein in the 1933
- The IRC has offices in 32 different countries and 24 regional offices within the US.
- The IRC created an Anti-Trafficking Action Coalition in 2003, with ALERT as its victim services program for non-citizen victims in the state of Arizona





What is ALERT?

Arizona League to End Regional
Trafficking

MISSION

ALERT is a league representing law enforcement, faith based communities, non profit organizations, social service agencies, attorneys, and concerned citizens.

Through education, outreach and a variety of programs and services ALERT strives to end the suffering and dehumanization of victims of human trafficking.

ALERT is:

- 1 of 29 OVC Grantees in US
- Only OVC Funded NGO in Arizona
- Funded to provide direct service to Non-Citizen Victims of Human Trafficking





Direct Client Services

Pre-Certified Services

- Case Management
- Immediate food and shelter
- Transportation
- Cell phones
- Clothing and personal items
- Language Interpretation and ESL
- Immediate Medical Attention
- Mental Health Care
- Legal Assistance
- Immigration Assistance



*Pre-certification services **do not** expire until:*

A. Client transitions into post-cert services

or

B. Client is no longer qualified for services



Refugee Benefits



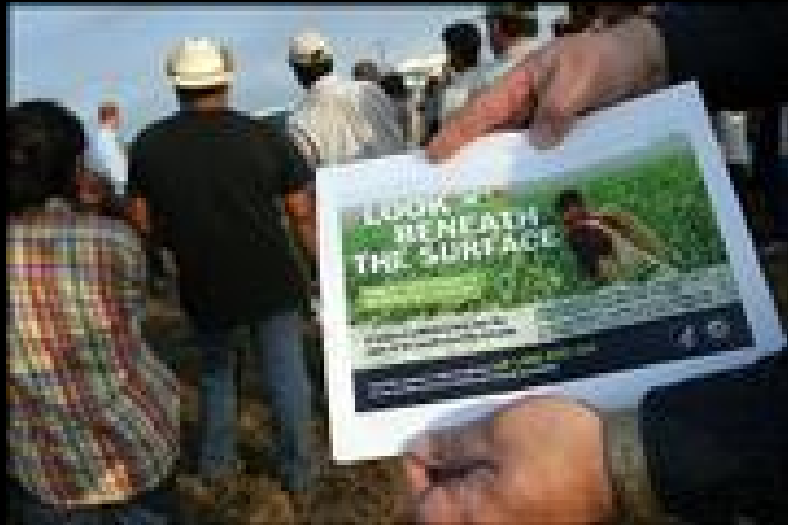
Post-Certified Services

- Long-term housing assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Temporary state benefits
 - Cash Assistance
 - Medical Assistance
 - Food Stamps
- Clothing and personal items
- Language Interpretation
- Mental Health Care

Post-Referral Protocols

- Referral or self-identification made
- Intake questionnaire completed
- Victim's immediate needs met (housing, physical and mental health, etc.)
- Referral made to US Attorney's Office
 - Begin law enforcement process
- Begin immigration relief process
 - T Visa

What Strategies for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking are being implemented in Arizona?



- Training professionals on identifying victims
- Information available in target languages with culturally appropriate materials
- General public awareness campaigns

What Strategies for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking are being implemented in Arizona?

I. Training Professionals to Identify Potential Victims:

- Law Enforcement officers (*local, state, federal*)
- Healthcare Providers (*ER staff, free clinics, community health promoters*)
- Social Service Providers (*DES, schools, DV advocates, shelter staff, churches, community outreach workers, immigrant rights groups, community centers, attorneys, etc*)



What Strategies for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking are being implemented in Arizona?



II. Information available in target languages with culturally appropriate materials

- Matchbooks, band-aids, candies (with national hotline label)
- Comic books for pre-literate workers
- Culture specific materials (Catholic prayer cards, Incense sticks, etc.)



What Strategies for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking are being implemented in Arizona?

Locations To Target:

- Tier One – Outreach to potential victims
(Money Wiring Establishments, Supermarkets, Phone card vendors / drug stores, Convenience stores, Discount stores, Laundromats, Gas Stations, Hair and Nail Salons, Bathrooms)
- Tier Two – Outreach to General Public
(Libraries, Restaurants, Ethnic Restaurants, Coffee Houses, Ethnic stores, Hotels, Community Centers, Police stations, Churches, Retail Stores, Bars and Clubs [if over 21])



Phoenix Outreach Campaign to Spanish-speaking Community

- September 2006 – ALERT was awarded Dept. of Health and Human Services grant to perform outreach on human trafficking to Spanish-speaking communities in Phoenix metropolitan area
- Campaign will include: billboards, bus kiosk posters, radio and television public service announcements and direct outreach

Phoenix Outreach Campaign Images



Phoenix Outreach Campaign Images



Our bi-lingual outreach coordinator is using these images, as well as others and ALERT materials in Spanish to do direct outreach to day laborers, churches, supermarkets, restaurants, Home Depots, and homeless and migrant shelters and community centers

Rescue and Restore's Spanish language materials are incorrectly translated and therefore are not used by ALERT in our outreach

Contact ALERT:

Tim Jefferson

ALERT Case Manager / Outreach Coordinator

Tucson

(520) 790-0779

timothyj@theirrc.org

Hotline: 1-888-60-ALERT

traffickingaz@yahoo.com